

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 DOEE-00 SSM-03 SES-02
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PASS AID, NE/PD; DES, PROCHNIK FOR DOE TARDIFF; FROM DOE
MCFARREN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EG
SUBJ: REVIEW OF EGYPT/U.S. ENERGY ASSESSMENT

REF: CAIRO 18841

1. DOE TEAM (MCFARREN, KING) AND EMBOFF MET WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS OF SUPREME COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 12 AND 13 TO BRIEF THEM ON DRAFT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO EGYPT REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT. SEPARATE MEETING WITH DR RAHMAN, ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER, CONDUCTED ON AUGUST 13. DRAFT REPORT WILL BE FORMALLY DISTRIBUTED TO SUPREME COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 15. ADDITIONAL COPIES FROM U.S. (15 MAIN REPORT AND APPENDICES, 5 ANNEXES) HAVE BEEN REQUESTED.

2. SCHEDULE FOR REVIEW AND COMPLETION OF DRAFT REPORT PLANNED AS FOLLOWS: SEPTEMBER 9-14, INTERNAL GOE MEETINGS; SEPTEMBER 16, BEGIN JOINT REVIEW AND PREPARATION OF FINAL REPORT LANGUAGE IN CAIRO; LATE SEPTEMBER, SUPREME COMMITTEE AND INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP REVIEWS; MID-OCTOBER, TRANSMITTAL OF JOINT REPORT TO TWO GOVERNMENTS.

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3. CONCEPT OF EGYPTIAN COMMUNICATION ON VALUE OF ASSESSMENT WHICH COULD BE INCLUDED IN STATE/DOE PROGRAM REPORT TO PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY MINELECTRICITY UNDERSEC ABAZA WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SULTAN. REACTION REPORTEDLY WAS FAVORABLE, ASSUMING SUPREME COMMITTEE APPROVE ASSESSMENT REPORT. DISCUSSIONS ALSO RAISED POSSI-

BILITY OF COMMUNICATION AT PRESIDENT SADAT TO PRESIDENT
CARTER LEVEL AFTER RELEASE OF FINAL JOINT ASSESSMENT REPORT
IN OCTOBER.

4. ATTAINMENT OF ABOVE TARGET SCHEDULE WILL REQUIRE THAT:
(A) LANGUAGE OF JOINT ASSESSMENT REPORT CAN BE PUT IN
FINAL FORM WHILE U.W. TEAM IS IN CAIRO DURING LAST HALF
OF SEPTEMBER; AND (B) PARALLEL REVIEWS BY U.S. INTERAGENCY
GROUP PROCEED ON SIMILAR SCHEDULE. THIS WILL REQUIRE CABLE
COMMUNICATION OF CHANGES OF SUBSTANCE PROPOSED BY EGYPT AND
OF ANY NEEDED ACCEPTANCE OF THESE CHANGES.

5. DOE TEAM COMMENT: DRAFT REPORT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED
BY KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS IN GOE. DISTRIBUTION WITHIN GOE
WILL BE WIDER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED BY U.S. TEAM AT THIS
STAGE AND WIDER THAN BELIEVED OPTIMUM FOR GOOD TECHNICAL
REVIEW, BUT DISTRIBUTION PROBABLY NECESSARY CONSIDERING
INTERNAL GOE FACTORS AND COULD EXPEDITE FINAL REVIEW
PROCESS. POSSIBLE EXTENT OF GOE COMMENTS INDETERMINATE AT
THIS TIME. RAMADAN PERIOD PROBABLY WILL INHIBIT IN-DEPTH
REVIEW BY MANY GOE OFFICIALS. PROSPECT OF DEPRIMIN
SULTAN-LEVEL COMMUNICATION TO SECRETARIES VANCE AND
SCHLESINGER IN TIME FOR INCLUSION IN STATE/DOE PROGRAM
REPORT TO PRESIDENT APPEARS GOOD IF EFFECTIVE PROCESS FOR
U.S. CONSIDERATION OF ANY GOE PROPOSED CHANGES IN DRAFT CAN
BE WORKED OUT.

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6. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY AGREES THAT USEFUL START HAS
BEEN MADE IN REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER,
ON BASIS LOCAL EXPERIENCE THAT ONLY GOE OFFICIALS WHO HAD
DIRECT HAND IN COMPILING REPORT ARE LIKELY TO REVIEW
CLOSELY ITS CONTENTS DURING RAMADAN AND BAIRAM; OTHERS LESS
DIRECTLY CONCERNED PROBABLY WILL NOT ACCORD IT MORE THAN
CURSORY EXAMINATION UNTIL WELL INTO SEPTEMBER. THIS CON-
SIDERATION, PLUS NEED TO ADDRESS SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS ON
LANGUAGE AND DATA IN REPORT, COULD PROLONG JOINT REVIEW
BEYOND SCHEDULE NOTED ABOVE. WE HOPE NOT, BUT SUGGEST
ARRIVAL OF APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF DOE TEAM SEVERAL DAYS
PRIOR SEPTEMBER 16 WOULD FACILITATE EFFORT TO COM-
PLETE REVIEW IN TIMELY FASHION. EILTS

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